

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A pegylated and hydroxlated trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerene comprising a plurality of hydroxyl groups and one or more polyethylene glycol moieties covalently bonded to a fullerene encapsulating a trimetallic nitride wherein the polyethylene glycol is covalently bonded to the fullerene through a malonyl moiety.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A pegylated and hydroxlated trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerene comprising a plurality of hydroxyl groups and one or more polyethylene glycol moieties covalently bonded to a fullerene encapsulating a trimetallic nitride wherein the one or more polyethylene glycol moiety is covalently bonded to the fullerene through an ethyl malonyl moiety.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A pegylated and hydroxlated trimetallic nitride endohedral metallofullerene comprising a plurality of hydroxyl groups and one or more polyethylene glycol moieties covalently bonded to a fullerene encapsulating a trimetallic

nitride wherein one or more pairs of polyethylene glycol moieties are covalently bonded to the fullerene through a malonyl moiety.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An endohedral metallofullerene of the formula: $A_3-nX_nN@C_m(-R(-[O-CH_2CH_2-]_k-Q)_j)_i(-OH)_h$; where A and X are metal atoms, $n=0-3$; m is an even number between about 60 and about 200; $1 < h < m-2$; $i \geq 1$; $j=1$ or 2 ; and $k > 1$ wherein R is a malonyl group or an ethyl-malonyl group and Q is o-methyl, ~~a protecting group~~, or a functional group selected from among an antigen, an antibody fragment, a membrane anchoring sequence, a polynucleotide, a receptor ligand, and biotin.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7₂ wherein $j=1$ and R is an ethyl malonyl group.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7₂ wherein Q is a methoxy group.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7₂ wherein $j=2$ and R is a malonyl group.

Claim 11 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein k is about 7.

Claim 12 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein k is about 11

Claim 13 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein k is about 16 or greater.

Claim 14 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein k is about 40 or greater.

Claim 15 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein, A and/or X are rare earth element and/or a group IIIB element.

Claim 16 (Original): The endohedral metallofullerene of claim 7, wherein A and/or X are chosen from among the group consisting of Scandium, Yttrium, Lanthanum, Gadolinium, Holmium, Erbium, Thulium, and Ytterbium.

Claims 17-20 (Canceled).